Filing Date: June 30, 2003
Title: CROSS-OVER VOLTAGE LOCK FOR DIFFERENTIAL OUTPUT DRIVERS
Assignce: Intel Corporation

IN THE CLAIMS

## 1. (Original) An apparatus comprising:

- a first differential output driver to provide a single ended output voltage in response to an input voltage;
- a second differential output driver to provide a single ended output in response to the input voltage, the first output voltage and the second output voltage representative of the positive and inverted input voltage; and
- a feedback circuit to monitor the first and second output voltages and apply a bias voltage to at least one of the first and second output drivers to vary the point where the first and second output voltages cross-over as the input voltage changes from a first to a second level.
- 2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the correcting bias voltage forces the first and second output voltages to cross-over at a point substantially equidistant between maximum and minimum output voltages of the first and second differential drivers.
- 3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first and second output drivers are connected to provide positive and negative outputs to positive and negative conductors of a transmission cable
- 4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the feedback circuit further includes at least one capacitor, and wherein the feedback circuit places a charge proportional to a difference between an actual cross-over voltage of the first and second output drivers and the equidistant cross-over voltage onto the capacitor to convert the charge into the correcting voltage.
- 5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the at least one capacitor includes a first and second capacitor, wherein the feedback circuit places a charge proportional to a difference between the actual cross-over voltage and the equidistant cross-over voltage onto the first and second capacitors, and wherein the first capacitor supplies a correcting voltage to at least one pull-up bias

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circuit in the output drivers, and the second capacitor supplies a correcting voltage to at least one pull down bias circuit in the output drivers.

- 6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the feedback circuit applies the correcting voltage to increase a drive strength of the pull-up bias circuit and/or to decrease a drive strength of the pull-down bias circuit if the actual cross-over voltage is lower than the equidistant cross-over voltage.
- 7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the feedback circuit applies the correcting voltage to decrease a drive strength of the pull-up bias circuit and/or to increase the pull-down bias circuit if the cross-over voltage is higher than the equidistant cross-over voltage.
- 8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the first capacitor provides a correcting voltage to a gate of a PMOS transistor in the pull-up bias circuit, and wherein the second capacitor provides a correcting voltage to a gate of an NMOS transistor in the pull-down bias circuit.
- 9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, further including:
- a differential receiver for detecting a cross-over voltage transition on the differential interface, the differential receiver having a first output;
- a single-ended receiver for detecting rail-to-rail transitions on the positive conductor, the receiver for the positive conductor having a second output;
- a single-ended receiver for detecting rail-to-rail transitions on the negative conductor, the receiver for the negative conductor having a third output; and

wherein if the cross-over voltage is lower than the equidistant voltage, charge on the first capacitor is reduced while the first output is high and the second output is low and/or charge on the second capacitor is reduced while the first output is low and the third output is low.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9,

wherein if the cross-over voltage is higher than the equidistant voltage, charge on the first capacitor is increased while the first output is low and the second output is high and/or charge on the second capacitor is increased while the first output is high and the third output is high.

- 11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the outputs enable switches to apply a high voltage level to the first and second capacitors to increase the charge, and to apply a low voltage level to the first and second capacitors to reduce the charge.
- 12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the switches include transmission-gate switches
- 13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the transceiver circuit is an interface to a universal serial bus (USB).
- 14. (Original) A method comprising:

measuring a difference between a voltage at which output voltage signals of first and second drivers of a differential signal transceiver cross-over and a voltage point substantially equidistant between maximum and minimum output voltages;

providing a correcting bias voltage proportional to a difference between the cross-over voltage and the equidistant voltage; and

applying the correcting bias voltage to the differential drivers to vary the voltage point where the first and second output voltages cross-over.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein providing a correcting bias voltage includes: producing a net charge on at least one capacitor in proportion to the difference between the cross-over voltage and the equidistant voltage; and

converting the charge into a correcting bias voltage.

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16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein applying the correcting bias voltage to the differential drivers includes feeding back the correcting voltage to the drivers to adjust a drive strength of pull-up and pull-down bias circuits.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein adjusting the drive strength of pull-up and pulldown circuit biasing includes:

increasing the drive strength of the pull-up bias circuit and/or decreasing the drive strength of the pull-down bias circuit if the cross-over voltage is lower than the equidistant voltage; and

decreasing the drive strength of the pull-up bias circuit and/or increasing the drive strength of the pull-down bias circuit if the cross-over voltage is higher than the equidistant voltage.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein

increasing the drive strength of the pull-up bias circuit includes decreasing a gate voltage on a PMOS transistor.

decreasing the drive strength of the pull-up bias circuit includes increasing a gate voltage of the PMOS transistor.

increasing a drive strength of the pull-down bias circuit includes increasing a gate voltage on an NMOS transistor, and

decreasing the drive strength of the pull-down bias circuit includes decreasing a gate voltage on the NMOS transistor.

- 19. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the net charge produced is zero when the crossover voltage matches the equidistant voltage.
- 20. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the at least one capacitor includes a first and second capacitor and producing a charge on a capacitor includes switching a power supply rail onto the first and second capacitor.
- 21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein adjusting a pull-up circuit bias includes applying a correcting voltage on the first capacitor to adjust a pull-up bias voltage, and adjusting a pull-

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down circuit bias includes applying a correcting voltage on the second capacitor to adjust a pulldown capacitor voltage.

22. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein measuring further includes:

measuring a cross-over transition on positive and negative conductors of a transmission cable with the differential signal transceiver;

measuring a rail-to-rail transition on the positive conductor of the transmission cable; measuring a rail-to-rail transition on the negative conductor of the transmission cable; and

wherein producing a net charge includes switching a charge onto the capacitor when there is a mismatch in transition times.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein measuring further includes:

providing a single ended output transition on a differential receiver in response to the crossover transition:

providing a single ended output transition on an output of a first single ended receiver in response to a transition exceeding a first voltage threshold on the positive conductor; and providing a single ended output transition on an output of a second single ended receiver in response to a transition exceeding a second voltage threshold on the negative conductor.

- 24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein providing the single ended output transition of the differential receiver includes providing a transition that follows the transition on the positive conductor, and wherein switching includes:
- a) switching a low supply onto the first capacitor while an output of the differential receiver is at a high voltage and an output of the first single-ended receiver is at a low voltage;
- b) switching a high supply onto the first capacitor while the output of the differential receiver is at a low voltage and the output of the first single-ended receiver is at a high voltage;
- c) switching a low supply onto the second capacitor while the output of the differential receiver is at a low voltage and an output of the second single-ended receiver is at a low voltage; and

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d) switching a high supply onto the second capacitor while the output of the differential receiver is at a high voltage and the output of the second single-ended receiver is at a high voltage.

## A system comprising: 25. (Currently Amended)

- a transceiver interface coupled to a differential communication bus, the transceiver interface including a positive conductor and a negative conductor and having a differential crossover voltage of a magnitude between high and low transceiver output;
  - a transceiver controller in communication with the transceiver interface; and
- a cross-over lock feedback circuit to correct deviations of the cross-over voltage from a voltage point equidistant between maximum and minimum output voltages of the transceiver, wherein the cross-over lock feedback circuit generates a correcting voltage as a function of a mismatch in switching times between the positive conductor and the negative conductor.
- The system of claim 25, wherein the transceiver interface further 26. (Currently Amended) includes at least one transceiver driver coupled to the cross-over lock feedback circuit, the driver having pull-up and pull-down circuits; and wherein the feedback circuit feeds back [[a]] the correcting voltage to the driver to adjust the pull-up and/or pull-down of the driver to correct the cross-over voltage.
- 27. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein the cross-over lock feedback circuit produces a charge in proportion to a difference of the cross-over voltage from the equidistant voltage to provide the correcting voltage.
- 28. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the transceiver interface further includes: a differential receiver:
  - a single-ended receiver coupled to a positive node on the differential bus; and
- a single-ended receiver coupled to a negative node on the differential bus, wherein the feedback circuit produces a charge based on asymmetry of switching times at receiver outputs when the cross-over voltage is different from the midpoint voltage.

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29. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

- a transceiver interface coupled to a differential communication bus, the transceiver interface <u>including a positive conductor and a negative conductor and</u> having a differential cross-over voltage of a magnitude between high and low transceiver output voltages;
  - a transceiver controller in communication with the transceiver interface; and
- a cross-over lock feedback circuit to correct deviations of the cross-over voltage from a voltage point equidistant between maximum and minimum output voltages of the transceiver, wherein the cross-over lock feedback circuit generates a correcting voltage as a function of a mismatch in switching times between the positive conductor and a negative conductor;
  - a processor in communication with the transceiver controller; and
  - a DRAM memory in communication with the processor.
- 30. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 29, wherein the transceiver interface further includes at least one transceiver driver coupled to the cross-over lock feedback circuit, the driver having pull-up and pull-down circuits; and wherein the feedback circuit feeds back [[a]] the correcting voltage to the driver to adjust the pull-up and/or pull-down of the driver to correct the cross-over voltage.
- 31. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein the cross-over lock feedback circuit produces a charge in proportion to a difference of the cross-over voltage from the equidistant voltage to provide the correcting voltage.